CFAC Minutes 6/11/2020

This CFAC meeting was held to discuss expanding the Idaho Department of Labor's call center as well as the Governor's Public Safety Payroll Initiative.

Alex Adams called the meeting to order at 4:01pm. Members not in attendance were Chantel Greene and Lisa Hettinger.

First, Jani Revier of the Department of Labor proposed bolstering the call center at Idaho's Department of Labor with an additional 50 agents at a cost of \$3 million. This is due the massive increase in call volume to the Department because of the high unemployment levels in the past two months. Jani emphasized that this will be done on a short-term contractual basis since this is a temporary problem – the contract will expire at the end of this year. The Department has already added 50 agents to answer calls but predicted that the Department would need at least 100 to handle the volume. Dennis Johnson moved to accept the proposal, seconded by Shawn Keough. Lt. Governor McGeachin made an alternative motion to take this \$3 million and hire a local Idaho call center instead of a national one – this motion failed due to lack of a second. The original motion then passed 12 -1 with Lt. Governor McGeachin voting nay.

Chairman Adams began the discussion on the next agenda item related to public safety payroll reimbursement for cities and counties. This proposal would tap the local and cities stabilization fund of \$188 million and dedicate it to covering the payroll costs of public safety employees in each city and county, with the savings to be passed along to citizens as property tax relief. Following public comment, Senator Bair moved to adopt this dollar amount as proposed, seconded by Matt Newton; the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Adams adjourned the meeting with the intention to meet on more proposals next week.